



FACT SHEET

LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND DECENTRALIZATION PROGRAM

Background

“Limyè ak Oganizasyon pou Kolektivite yo Ale Lwen” (LOKAL), is a US\$14 million, 4-year program to improve democratic processes and promote stability throughout the country. For nearly 50 years, Haitians have struggled to rid themselves of oppressive leaders and to establish governments that respect the rule of law and provide essential state services to its citizens. Strengthening decentralization and local governance is a priority of the Government of Haiti and a core focus of USAID’s new development strategy.

Activities

The activity will achieve program element goals by: completing the decentralization legal framework to clarify local officials’ roles and increase their access to resources; improving local official and staff financial skills and management of available resources; and increasing constituent outreach. Targets will be reached by: providing training, technical assistance to elected local officials and their key staff; making small grants to provide local governments with hands-on experience in planning and implementing projects with citizen input and oversight; and strengthening a national mayors’ association.

USAID support

Services provided to decentralized government entities under this procurement will respond to demonstrated need and will be conducted in targeted, conflict-prone communities. By targeting local beneficiaries, these activities will strengthen the capacity of a critical mass of municipalities and civil society groups, as well as the governance mechanisms that link the two.

Objectives

The objective of LOKAL is to support legitimate functioning local governments at all levels and provide the tools and resources with which to govern efficiently and effectively, thereby providing essential services to their communities.

Implementer

Associates in Rural Development (ARD) is the prime implementer of the LOKAL program.

Targets

For FY 2008, the program seeks to train 25 individual on fiscal management, contribute to the drafting of 1 law promoting decentralization, support 1 Non-Governmental and public sector associations, assist 5 sub-national government entities in improving their performance, and help 5 sub-national governments to increase their annual own-source revenues.

Anticipated Results over Life of Program

- Completed decentralization legal framework in place and implemented.
- More transparent, responsive and democratic local governance.
- Stronger capacity for effective and efficient local governance to deliver services to Haitian citizens.
- Devolution of authority and resources to the local level, with transparent management of public resources.
- Participatory decision-making processes in selected local government settings.